

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* City of Kalispell, Public Works Department, PO Box 1997, Kalispell MT 59903
2. *Type of action:* Application to Change a Water Right 76LJ 30063462
3. *Water source name:* Groundwater
4. *Location affected by project:* NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, Township 29N, Range 22W, Flathead County
5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits: The DNRC shall issue a change authorization if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402 MCA are met.

Applicant seeks to change Provisional Permit 76LJ 4601. This unperfected right was originally from a well located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  in Section 8, Township 28N, Range 21W and known as the Woodland Park Well. The municipal use from this point of diversion (POD) is for 6 CFS up to 4,344 AF annually. Completion date on this Permit is December 31, 2015. Change Application 76LJ 30049640 added another well to Provisional Permit 76LJ 4601, known as the Silverbrook Well located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 18, Township 29N, Range 21W. This new well is authorized to pump .56 CFS of the total 6 CFS and share the volume which is already permitted from 76LJ 4601. Proposed well, known as the Section 36 well, is requesting a pumping rate of 1,525 GPM. Provisional Permit's 76LJ 4601's flow rate and volume will be shared between the three wells.

6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*  
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

Montana Natural Heritage Program  
Montana State Historical Society  
Natural Resources and Conservation Service soil maps  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
United States Fish and Wildlife Wetland Mapper

**Part II. Environmental Review**

**1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

<p><b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b></p>
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**WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

*Determination:* N/A – groundwater source

**Water quality** - Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

*Determination:* N/A – groundwater source

**Groundwater** - Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Proposed diversion is from a well completed to a depth of 400 feet below ground surface, with a 16 inch diameter casing, a static water level of 141, and has sporadic perforations from 274 to 397 feet. A zone around the proposed well, with approximately one-foot of drawdown was modeled with pumping this well at 1,525 GPM for a period of five years out to about 2,500 feet. Those appropriations were considered to have enough available water column to show no adverse effects to this pumping. Since pumping of this new well does not increase flow rate and volume of a previously permitted use, there will be no adverse effects to surface sources either.

*Determination:* No impact.

**DIVERSION WORKS** - Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

The Section 36 Well was drilled and constructed by Briggs Drilling (Montana License No. WWC-148) in 1972. The well was completed to a depth of 400 feet below ground surface, has a 16 inch diameter casing, a static water level of 141, and has sporadic perforations from 274 to 397 feet. A 200 horsepower, Goulds Model 11CLC submersible pump capable of supplying 1,525 GPM will be installed in the well. A copy of the pump specifications and pump curve is provided in the application.

*Determination:* No impact.

**UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater,

*assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or “species of special concern.”*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program’s website was used to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern”, that could be impacted by the proposed project. The following animals were identified on that list located regionally: Wolverine, Fisher, Great Blue Heron, Black Tern, Horned Grebe, Westslope and Lake Trout.

*Determination:* No immediate impact.

**Wetlands** - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

*Determination:* Property not located in a designated wetland boundary.

**Ponds** - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

*Determination:* No pond; no impact.

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

The majority of soils in this area is Kalispell Loam (Ke) that occurs up to 3 percent slope that is well drained with a high capacity level.

*Determination:* No impact to soil quality or alteration of soil stability expected.

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

*Determination:* No impact – well has been in existence for 30+ years.

**AIR QUALITY** - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

*Determination:* No impacts are anticipated.

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal Lands.*

*Determination:* Section 36 belongs to School Trust Land. An EIS was written for this section in consideration for integration with the Kalispell City County Master Plan. Historical and archeological site impacts have already been studied.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

Determination: N/A

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: Developed/planned with the Kalispell City County Master Plan as a resource.

**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: No impact.

**HUMAN HEALTH** - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: No impact.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes\_\_\_ NoXX If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination: No impact.

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? N/A
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? N/A
- (c) Existing land uses? Kalispell Master Plan followed; no impact.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No impact.
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? Per Master Plan
- (f) Demands for government services? No Impact

- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? Per Master Plan
- (h) Utilities? Expansion as needed
- (i) Transportation? Increased traffic
- (j) Safety? Addressed in State EIS
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None

**2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:**

Secondary Impacts None

Cumulative Impacts None

**3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:**  
None

**4. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:**

**PART III. Conclusion**

**1. Preferred Alternative** As proposed

**2. Comments and Responses** None

**3. Finding:**  
Yes\_\_\_ NoXX Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Kathy Olsen

Title: Water Resource Specialist

Date: April 24, 2013